GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:131
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015
Exclusion from NFSA
Kulaste Shri Faggan Singh;Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the criteria laid down for inclusion/exclusion of beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) along with the manner in which the bonafides of the beneficiaries are ascertained and authenticated;

(b) whether the Government has made any estimation regarding requirement of additional storage capacity for implementation of the Act;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the remedial steps taken in this regard;

(d) the extent to which prices are likely to be altered in the international market as a result of excess procurement to implement this Act;

(e) the details of the action plan formulated and the steps taken thereon by the agencies to ensure appropriate and effective implementation of the Act; and (f) the way in which this scheme is likely to improve the nutrition level among the people particularly the children and women in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a): As per the provisions of the National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA), identification of eligible households for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), is the responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs). Eligible households comprise of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and priority households. The Act provides that identification of AAY households is to be done in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the said scheme and that of remaining households, i.e. priority households, in accordance with such guidelines as States/UTs may specify. AAY is an ongoing scheme and the AAY households are already identified in States/UTs. For identification of priority households, complete responsibility for evolving the criteria and their actual identification is with the States/UTs.
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(b) to (d): The annual requirement of foodgrains for implementation of the NFSA is estimated at 614.4 lakh tons. A total storage capacity of 754.26 lakh tons is available with Food Corporation of India and State agencies, which is sufficient for storage of foodgrains in Central Pool stocks.

The average annual procurement of wheat and rice during last five years (2009-10 to 2013-14) was about 618.55 lakh tons. At the current levels of production and procurement of foodgrains, the requirements under NFSA are likely to be met domestically and no price alteration in international market is foreseen as a result of implementation of the Act.

(e): Main responsibility for implementation of the Act rests with States/UTs. Its implementation is reviewed on a regular basis and necessary advisories are issued to States/UTs, wherever required. Various meetings/ conferences have also been held with the States/UTs to review their status of preparedness for implementation of the Act and to urge them to implement the Act at the earliest. In order to ensure proper implementation of the Act, States/UTs are impressed upon to ensure proper identification of beneficiaries through a transparent and participative process, delivery of foodgrains by designated State agencies upto the door-steps of fair price shops, availability of adequate scientific storage facilities at various levels, end-to-end computerisation of TPDS operations and setting up of effective grievance redressal mechanism, among others.

(f): The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population for receiving foodgrains at subsidised prices under TPDS, thus covering about two thirds of the population of the country. Besides, there is a special focus in the Act on nutritional support to pregnant women and lactating mothers and children upto 14 years of age. With these provisions, the Act is likely to ensure food and nutritional security to a large population of the country including women and children.

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